



**Check it out:**  
**Cybersafety Section**  
**of the Attorney**

**General Website:**

We have recently added a new section under the Cybersafety area of our website—**I-Shield Updates**. This section includes the bi-monthly newsletter; resources for your use such as posters, flyers and brochures developed by our office; a calendar of upcoming events; and a photo gallery of events sponsored by our office around the state.

**Inside this issue:**

Attorney General's Office Encourages Task Force Members to Begin Scheduling School Safety 1

MySpace FAQ's for Law Enforcement 2

Attorney General Stumbo Announces MySpace Releases Sex Offender Names to Kentucky 3

Internet Safety and Education Updates 3

Questions Regarding Sentinel Safe and MySpace 4

Calloway County's Kenny Collins Named Nation's Top School Resource Officer 5

Use of Computers and the Sexual Exploitation of Children 5

News Briefs 6

# Internet Safety News

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## Attorney General's Office Encourages Task Force Members to Begin Scheduling School Safety Assemblies

Kentucky children will be returning to school in the next few weeks and the need for law enforcement to work with our schools to provide Internet Safety instruction has never been greater. Witness the multitude of reports from around the state and across the country of sexual predators using online social networking sites like MySpace and FaceBook to lure and meet children in the real world. Recent studies conducted by the non-profit Pew Internet and American Life Project report that 55% of online teens have created an online profile and used a social networking site like MySpace or FaceBook. And many of these teens continue to engage in dangerous conduct over the Internet.

The risky behavior ranges from posting personal information or images that can lead to identity theft to meeting strangers for sexual encounters. MySpace recently announced that it has removed 29,000 profiles of registered sex offenders since May, 2007 when it began utilizing its voluntary Sentinel SAFE program. Information on the removed Kentucky offenders has been obtained by the OAG and provided to the Corrections Cabinet to determine if any registrants are in violation of the terms of their release. Over 300 Kentucky profiles have been removed by MySpace because they belonged to registered sex offenders.

In addition, a significant number of children report receiving harassing or threatening communications online or through text messages. Experts tell us that

online "cyber bullying" can be even more devastating to the victim than face to face bullying, where a victim at least has a chance to know the victim and the bully can see the harm their actions are causing.

The Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection and Kentucky Bureau of Investigation, partnering with Internet Safety expert Doris Settles, began reaching out to middle and high school students this past school year to teach them about the dangers on the Internet and how to take steps to avoid becoming a victim. Internet Safety assemblies, lasting one hour, were conducted by the OAG and Ms. Settles in middle and high schools in Green, Bullitt, Fayette and Woodford counties beginning last January. The i-Assemblies use materials from the Internet Safety group i-Safe America and presenters also present images from students' MySpace pages showing the inappropriate conduct happening in their own school. The reaction from students, teachers and school administrators has been very positive and the OAG has already started receiving requests for additional assemblies this fall. See previous editions of this newsletter for articles about past assemblies.

If your department or school is interested in scheduling an i-Assembly, please contact Debbie Gilbert at the Office of the Attorney General, Office of Consumer Protection at 502-696-5385. Staff availability is limited so get in touch with us ASAP!

## MySpace FAQ's for Law Enforcement

As more and more children are utilizing social networking sites like MySpace, officers and prosecutors are challenged to respond to a myriad of complaints ranging from harassing communications, Cyberbullying and physical threats to impersonation. MySpace has developed a confidential guide for law enforcement which has useful contact information and describes the legal process required to obtain information from the site. The Guide can be obtained from MySpace or from the Attorney General's Office. Distribution is limited to law enforcement. There are also guides for parents (<http://tinyurl.com/2k9ofg>) and schools (available upon request from the Attorney General's Office).

We asked MySpace to provide us with an easy to use set of answers for some of the more common questions we are receiving from the law enforcement community. Here's what we got back. Hopefully you'll find this useful in dealing with questions that arise through your contacts with parents and students dealing with MySpace-related problems.

### **1. What should law enforcement do if it gets a report of threatening or harassing behavior on a MySpace profile?**

Where it does not interfere with a law enforcement investigation, users can be directed to contact MySpace and to take advantage of the "Block" feature. The "Block" feature allows a user to block offending users from contacting them or viewing their profile. Additionally, users can contact the Customer Care team through the "Contact MySpace" page which is linked to at the bottom of every MySpace page. Harassment complaints should be submitted by selecting the "Reporting Abuse" subject and then the "Cyberbullying" subtopic from within the "Contact MySpace" page. It is important to include the Friend ID or web address of the profile being reported. MySpace will always suggest the user contact law enforcement if the user feels physically threatened.

If the user chooses to pursue the incident with law enforcement, the most critical piece of information in investigating and responding to reports of threatening or harassing behavior is the Friend ID of the parties involved. Unlike profile display names, logins, email addresses or URLs that can change, the Friend ID is a unique identifier that stays consistent through the life of the profile. There is no ambiguity in identifying a profile with the Friend ID. Whenever possible, MySpace also

recommends making electronic copies of the evidence immediately.

### **2. Who does law enforcement contact to report harassing or threatening behavior on MySpace.**

Law Enforcement can contact MySpace directly through the Law Enforcement Hotline. The phone number and e-mail addresses are listed on the front page of the Law Enforcement Guide. The hotline and email are reserved specifically for law enforcement and are manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Users should be directed to the "Contact MySpace" page which is linked to at the bottom of every MySpace page.

### **3. Who should parents or customers contact to report abusive behavior on MySpace?**

MySpace has a ParentCare team dedicated to supporting parents. To reach the ParentCare team, parents should go to the "Safety Tips" page which is linked to at the bottom of every MySpace page and select "ParentCare". The ParentCare team is available via email or phone from 6 am - 6 pm Pacific Time 7 days a week.

"A Guide to MySpace for Parents with Teens"

Web address: [www.myspace.com/safetytips](http://www.myspace.com/safetytips)

E-mail address: [parentcare@myspace.com](mailto:parentcare@myspace.com)

Other customers should contact MySpace Customer Care through the "Contact MySpace" page which is linked to at the bottom of every MySpace page. Abusive behavior, also known as cyberbullying, should be submitted by selecting the "Reporting Abuse" subject and then the "Cyberbullying" subtopic from within the "Contact MySpace" page.

### **4. I have a complaint that someone has posted false information about the complainant on MySpace - what can they do?**

If the complainant is not able to work with the profile owner to remove the information, they should contact the MySpace Customer Care team. Customer Care can be contacted through the "Contact MySpace" page which is linked to at the bottom of every MySpace page. False information complaints should be submitted by selecting the "Reporting Abuse" subject and then the "Cyberbullying" subtopic from within the "Contact MySpace" page. Imposter profile complaints should be submitted by selecting the "Reporting Abuse" subject and the "Imposter Profile" subtopic. It is important to include the Friend ID or web address of the profile being reported.

## Attorney General Stumbo Announces MySpace Releases Sex Offender Names to Kentucky

On June 4, 2007, Attorney General Greg Stumbo announced that his office has identified 22 sex offenders who are MySpace.com users - this in addition to the 68 convicted sex offenders from Kentucky that MySpace identified and provided to the state on May 24. Attorney General Stumbo received the names and other identifying information, such as the users' email and IP addresses, in response to a subpoena sent by the Attorney General to MySpace on May 21 demanding that the company turn over information about sex offenders. MySpace had earlier confirmed that it had identified thousands of registered sex offenders as members of the popular social network site. MySpace reports that it has deleted the users from its site but preserved the information about them in order to provide it to attorneys general such as Stumbo.

Attorney General Stumbo will share this information about registered sex offenders with law enforcement, including the Kentucky Bureau of Investigation and Kentucky State Police. The data can be used to look for potential parole violations by offenders who may be barred from using a computer or contacting minors.

Following a letter sent by state attorneys general to MySpace on May 14 demanding that the company turn over information about sex

offenders, MySpace confirmed that Sentinel Tech Holdings has already identified thousands of registered sex offenders as members of the popular social networking site. MySpace will continue to search its site for registered sex offenders, and will give the states information about all offenders found on its site including their email and IP addresses upon receipt of a subpoena.

Since May of 2006, North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper and Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal have been leading a group of attorneys general from 52 states and territories including Kentucky who are pushing social networking sites to do a better job protecting children from threats such as sexual predators and inappropriate content. The May 14 letter, written by eight attorneys general on behalf of the larger group, is just the latest part of this effort. Because of the push of the attorneys general, MySpace has previously taken other steps to improve safety on its site such as screening profiles for inappropriate content and making certain profiles private. The attorneys general are continuing to urge MySpace to require parental permission for children to be on its site, among other safety steps.

Links to the news articles:

<http://tinyurl.com/2rphsn>

<http://tinyurl.com/24jhc4>

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## Internet Safety and Education Updates

### Office of the Attorney General

- June 6-7, 2007—I-Assembly, Southern Jr. High School, Somerset, Kentucky
- June 14, 2007—I-Assembly, KSU PACT, Frankfort, Kentucky
- July 12, 2007—I-Assembly, KSU Youth Entrepreneur's Program, Frankfort, Kentucky

## Questions Regarding Sentinel SAFE and MySpace

### **Q.What is Sentinel SAFE?**

- A. Sentinel SAFE is a national, searchable database of registered sex offenders (RSOs). Sentinel SAFE enables MySpace and other entities to subscribe and search for RSOs using multiple points of identification, including name, date of birth, and location. Sentinel SAFE was developed by Sentinel Tech Holding Corp. RSO data is updated approximately every 30 days by Sentinel.

### **Q.How does MySpace use Sentinel SAFE?**

- A. MySpace's database of registered users is run against Sentinel SAFE in order to detect registered users of MySpace who may also be RSOs. Potential matches are based on exact or partial matches of a number of identifying factors and ranked based on the points of identification that can be matched between the two databases. Potential matches are then manually reviewed to determine whether it is a positive match. Potential matches with higher rankings are more likely to be positive matches and are reviewed first. When a match is determined to be positive, the MySpace profile is deleted. Information related to the profile is preserved and archived by MySpace when a profile is deleted.

### **Q. Is there an ongoing review of the MySpace database?**

- A. MySpace began a review of its then-active database in May 2007. Currently, in addition to reviewing every new profile, existing profiles with identity-related changes to registration information are compared against Sentinel SAFE.

### **Q. Does MySpace ban identified RSOs from re-registering after their MySpace profile has been deleted?**

- A. After a positive match has been made using Sentinel SAFE, MySpace blocks the email address associated with the RSO's profile so as not to allow him/her to re-register on MySpace.com with that email address. At this time, it is possible for the RSO to register using a different email address. Any new profile created would be reviewed against the Sentinel SAFE database to determine whether a RSO has registered, and to take appropriate action by deleting the profile. MySpace has been seeking email registration legislation to require RSOs to register any and all email addresses they use in order to allow MySpace to block the RSOs permanently. If an RSO violates the registration requirement, the RSO could then face jail time. Eight states have passed this email registration legislation, and approximately a

dozen other states are currently considering it.

### **Q. What is the time frame for identifying new MySpace accounts as RSOs?**

- A. New accounts are compared against Sentinel SAFE data within approximately 48 hours of the account being created. The amount of time it takes to manually review the potential match depends on what percentage match there is of the RSO data to the MySpace registration information.

### **Q. What is the time frame for reviewing a profile that reflects identity-related changes to registration information to determine whether the profile is that of a RSO?**

- A. Users that update their registration information will be run against Sentinel SAFE data within approximately 48 hours of the update. The amount of time it takes to manually review the potential match depends on what percentage match there is of the RSO data to the MySpace registration information.

### **Q. How is the information in Sentinel SAFE obtained and is it current?**

- A. Sentinel obtains comprehensive publicly available RSO data from its partner LexisNexis, a leading information services provider. This data is then processed into Sentinel SAFE in a form that can be used by MySpace and other entities to conduct comparisons. Confidential information such as medical records, school records, or sealed court files are not contained in this database. Sentinel SAFE is updated and refreshed approximately every 30 days.

### **Q. May law enforcement officials report a RSO with a MySpace profile?**

- A. The use of Sentinel SAFE is an integral part of MySpace's efforts to keep MySpace.com free from RSOs. However, Sentinel SAFE may not contain up to the minute information that law enforcement officials such as parole/probation officers may have access to. Law enforcement officials may report RSO with a MySpace profile by providing the RSO's MySpace Friend ID to AccountSafe@MySpace.com.

### **Q. What is Sentinel's relationship with MySpace and law enforcement?**

- A. The Sentinel SAFE database and associated tools are licensed for a fee by MySpace and other commercial entities. MySpace provides information to law enforcement in response to legal requests, consistent with the ECPA.



## Kenny Collins Named Nation's Top School Resource Officer

Calloway County Deputy Kenny Collins, school resource officer at Calloway County High School, has been named the National School Resource Officer of the Year for 2007. Collins was recognized July 26th during an awards luncheon at the National School Resource Officers Conference at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Collins stressed that, to him, this was not an individual award, but rather a team effort. He said he believes there are a lot of great resource officers

across the nation who are deserving of the award, and he wanted to send a special thanks to the selection committee. He noted that the Kentucky Center for School Safety, along with CCHS Principal Yvette Pile and Sheriff Bill Marcum, had entered him into the nomination process. A formal reception in his honor is scheduled for early August.



Pictured, front row, from left, are: Yvette Pile, CCHS principal; SRO Kenny Collins, award recipient; and Brian Wilmurth, CCHS assistant principal. Back row, from left, are: Steve Hoskins, Calloway County school superintendent; Bill Marcum, Calloway County sheriff; and Bill Cowan, CCHS athletic director.

## “Use of Computers in the Sexual Exploitation of Children”—Updated Edition

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published an updated edition of its Portable Guide "Use of Computers in the Sexual Exploitation of Children."

This 36-page second edition updates the original guide with concise, practical information for law enforcement officers investigating child sexual exploitation involving computers. The guide describes the behavioral characteristics and practices of sexual predators who use computers to target children, provides best practices for investigations involving computer evidence, and summarizes the legal principles governing the search and seizure of computer systems.

### Resources:

Print copies of "Use of Computers in the Sexual Exploitation of Children, Second Edition" (NCJ 214167) can be ordered online at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/alphaList.aspx>. Search by document number for quick access.

This publication is not available online.

## News Briefs

### **MySpace Rape Arrest: What Parents Can Do**

**Press Release Date: August 16, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/yod33a>

Albany, New York—An Albany County man is under arrest, charged with the rape of a 15 year old girl he met on MySpace. It began when 21-year-old Sean Lennon befriended the then 14 year old he met online. State Police Investigator Joe Donohue says it's their job to try to make parents aware of the real dangers kids can encounter online every day.

### **Students Can Be Punished for Web Postings**

**Press Release Date: August 15, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/ywgl4c>

Shepherdsville, Kentucky—When students returned to class in Bullitt County, a new school board policy was in place to protect them from cyberbullying. Students can be suspended or expelled for messages they post on MySpace.

### **Girl Victim of MySpace Assault**

**Press Release Date: August 10, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/2a77tf>

New Brunswick, New Jersey—A New Brunswick man was arrested and charged with having sexual contact with a 13-year-old girl he met on the popular social networking website, MySpace. The victim told police she had met Jhor Guerra on MySpace.

### **Man Busted for Soliciting**

**Press Release Date: August 7, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/yrsnsr>

Fort Worth, Texas—A Fort Worth man remained jailed after driving to Tyler to meet a “15-year-old” girl he met on MySpace.com. The profile was created by the Smith County Sheriff's office back in November. The arrest was made after the man agreed to meet who he thought was a teenage girl.

### **Man Pleads Guilty After Teen Sex Sting**

**Press Release Date: July 11, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/2uc8as>

Louisville, Kentucky—A Louisville man pleaded guilty to trying to entice a 14-year-old girl to have sex with him. Authorities said Joseph Turner, 33, was arrested last July after going to meet the girl at Oxmoor Mall. The girl he had been talking to online was actually a special agent with the FBI.

### **Man Pleads Guilty to Sending Child Porn**

**Press Release Date: July 10, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/3dh35h>

Louisville, Kentucky—A Louisville man pleaded guilty to distribution and possession of child pornography. Federal prosecutors said Darrell Adwell, 44, admitted sending child pornography to an individual in San Francisco over the internet.

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## News Briefs (cont.)

### **State Police Cataloging Sex Offender Usernames**

**Press Release Date: June 26, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/2vmxjw>

Frankfort, Kentucky—Kentucky parents can now find out if their kids are talking to a sex offender online. State police will add online names, like usernames from MySpace, to the sex offender registry.

### **Second Man Accused of Parole Violation by Posting MySpace Profile**

**Press Release Date: June 22, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/2quoz6>

Waterbury, Connecticut—A second convicted sex offender has been accused of violating his parole by creating a profile on the social networking site MySpace.com without his parole officer's permission. MySpace recently provided law enforcement officials in all 50 states with the names of more than 17,000 people identified as sex offenders who had created profiles on the site.

### **Louisville Man Gets 6 1/2 Years for Child Porn**

**Press Release Date: June 20, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/28rzg3>

Louisville, Kentucky—A Louisville man was sentenced in federal court to more than 6 1/2 years in prison for charges he received and possessed child pornography. Shawn Christopher Cowley, 33, pleaded guilty on March 6 to the charges, which stemmed from child porn files found on a computer in his mother's home.

### **Sex Offenders on MySpace Arrested**

**Press Release Date: June 14, 2007**

For the full story, log on to: <http://tinyurl.com/2lr4nt>

Houston, Texas—Seven convicted sex offenders with profiles on MySpace.com have been arrested in what Texas officials said was the country's first large-scale crackdown of registered offenders who use the social networking site.

The Office of the Attorney General is committed to protecting consumers from unscrupulous business practices, making your government more open and accessible, curtailing the drug epidemic threatening the Commonwealth, representing your rights against utility companies' rate increases, and defending our most vulnerable citizens against Medicaid fraud, abuse and neglect. In addition, the Attorney General, as Kentucky's top law enforcement officer, has formed an I-Shield Task Force to get cybersafety information out to our schools and communities. A Cybersafety section has been added to the Attorney General's website with online tips and information to safeguard your children and computer from Internet threats including dangers such as cyberstalking and cyberbullying. Also included are tips on guarding against other dangers that lurk in cyberspace such as identity theft and Internet viruses and worms. Visit us at [www.ag.ky.gov/cybersafety](http://www.ag.ky.gov/cybersafety).